

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10

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R 201756Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245

INFO ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

NRC BETHESDA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW

SUBJ: NUCLEAR ENERGY -- GERMAN GOVERNMENT REPORT ON
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT.

REF: A. BONN 11284; B. BONN 13259; C. BONN 10119.

1. SUMMARY: THE FRG GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DELAY THE
ISSUANCE OF NEW OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION
PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNTIL THE NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY HAS DISPLAYED ITS DETERMINATION TO AC-
CELERATE ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
LONG PLANNED INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER.
END SUMMARY.

2. SUBJECT REPORT, WHICH WAS PUBLICIZED ON AUG. 18,
WAS TOPIC OF FRG CABINET MEETING ON JUNE 9. THE
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GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE DECISION TO DELAY AS THE

ONLY WAY TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH THE ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE: EITHER (1) TO THREATEN THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BY THE SHUTDOWN OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, OR (2) TO BE FORCED TO INVEST VAST AMOUNTS OF FEDERAL SUBSIDIES TO ASSURE SAFE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT, WHICH WOULD MEAN THE ABOLISHMENT OF THE POLLUTER-PAYS-PRINCIPLE.

3. THE REPORT EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, BECAUSE THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS GROW LARGER WITH EVERY NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR CONSTRUCTED. FURTHERMORE, PROMPT ACTION IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY, BECAUSE THE EFFICIENCY OF A RESTRICTIVE LICENSING POLICY WOULD DIMINISH THE MORE THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DEPENDS ON POWER PRODUCTION FROM NUCLEAR REACTORS. THE POSSIBLE HARM THAT SUCH A RESTRICTIVE LICENSING POLICY COULD CURRENTLY HAVE ON THE ENERGY SECTOR IS REGARDED TO BE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE COMPARED TO THE CONSEQUENCES THAT CARELESS TREATMENT OF NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT WOULD HAVE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THE GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT -- OUTLINED IN REF. A -- FAILS TO BE IMPLEMENTED, EXPERTS FEAR THAT A SHUTDOWN OF OPERATING POWER PLANTS WOULD FOLLOW. THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE WITH THE BIBLIS POWER PLANT, GERMANY'S LARGEST NUCLEAR PLANT UNDER OPERATION. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THE OWNER OF THE PLANT, RWE, HAS APPLIED FOR AN EXPANSION OF THE INTERMEDIATE STORAGE CAPACITY FOR SPENT FUEL. THE CABINET REPORT, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT SUCH AN EXPANSION WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED.
HILLENBRAND

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